

Recent AICC Session

Congress Poll Promises Flung Aside

The two-day AICC session recently held in New Delhi presents a clear picture of the real objectives the ruling party is destined to fulfil. The Prime Minister and other leaders of the Congress made deliberations in the session which are notably marked with significant departure from their toll promises given to the people at the time of the last poll.

The new Congress led by Sm. Indira Gandhi which sought to impress upon the people that her party was pledged to fulfil the task of establishing socialism in the country through democratic means, in order to uplift the living conditions of the weaker sections of the people, remove poverty and unemployment, bring down largely the inequality among the people, and even tried to pass on some so-called progressive measures like bank nationalisation, abolition of privy purses etc. as positive steps in the way of building socialism, has expectedly, made no slightest move towards this end after assumption of governmental

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power both at the Centre and in the States. Rather, in a series of measures taken recently and successive utterances of the Congress leaders, its real intensions and class interests are increasingly becoming manifest. That the Congress which represents the aggregate interest of the Indian monopoly capitalists, has thrown up some radical slogans on the eve of election only to befool the electorate and drag them on its side to further consolidate its power to be exercised in furthering the interest of the Indian monopolists, has become evident even to some participants in the AICC session. Such betrayal of the people and hypocritical gestures of the

Congress unmistakably show that the same old tactics which the Congress used to adopt in the period of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's leadership in holding out some big promises to the people, such as removal of poverty and unemployment, building up socialistic pattern of society etc., at the back of which it faithfully carried out the dictates of the vested interests and the Indian monopolists, are being closely followed by the present Congress with more vigour and enthusiasm. No sooner had the election results turned in favour of the Congress through manipulations and intrigues than the Congress bosses had flung aside all its high blown 'progressive' slogans and promises.

The present AICC session is important in another aspect too. It has gone down as a most sterile session where practically no serious discussions took place even regarding some matters like the question of land ceiling which till very recently caused some heated controversy among the Congressites. The few participants who would have ventured to make these as issues of discussion at the session were severely admonished by the Prime Minister so as to 'behave or quit' the Congress Party. The ruling party is not only bent on suppressing the voice of democratic opposition, but

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FALL OF ORISSA GOVT. Congress Engineered Defection

The-Swatantra-Utkal Congress-Jharkhand Coalition Government in Orissa has ultimately fallen. There is no ground for shedding tears on this fall. For, this Government was a reactionary Government which has made a history in the State politics by its very many activities of suppressing legitimate demands and movements of the people and upholding vested interest of all forms. No question of supporting it in any way, even by remaining neutral in the State Legislature, can arise.

It would have been one thing, and very good thing indeed, if the people of Orissa could get rid of this reactionary Government by conducting mass struggles. But the way the Ruling Congress Party and Central Government have moved to topple the Coalition Government by hatching conspiracies and engineering defection by throwing baits of prize and position is most heinous and must be condemned. When the Bill to ban the defection was being discussed in Parliament, this ugly manoeuvre by the top ruling Congress leadership to purchase some legislators of the Coalition Parties and cause defection and consequent fall of the Government makes it all the more condemnable.

It once again proves that the ruling Congress and the Central Government led by Mrs. Indira Gandhi in spite of lip service to democracy and democratic norms and the necessity of anti-defection measures do not hesitate to practice these very vices just to topple any non-Congress Government and instal a Congress Government in its place.

It also confirms the open declaration by the Congress

some time back that it will not allow any non-Congress Government to continue in office and adopt all means to topple it.

This gross violation of democratic norms of behaviour by the ruling Congress fits in well with its policy of capturing the Governmental power by hook or crook by using the administration and the police and making free use of black money in order to rig the elections in different States and any-how procure victory in elections. Symptoms of administrative Fascism are thus noticeable.

The latest event in Orissa is not an isolated phenomenon; it is the continuation of the same fascist methods adopted by the ruling Congress to establish by hook or crook dictatorial rule in the different States and at the Centre—a menace to democracy long ago pointed out and consistently opposed by our Party. The people of Orissa have nothing to be elated over this change of Government. They must not harbour any illusion about the ruling Congress and its Government which will be equally oppressive, and exploiting.

HYPOCRISY ABOUNDING

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even within the party itself any voice of dissent on crucial issues is being ruthlessly curbed thus showing increasing tendency of fascization which is enveloping our country.

The following facts will reveal the immense gap which lies between its various promises and actual performance.

Take for example the question of nationalisation of industries. It is well known that the nationalisation of 14-major Indian banks was proclaimed by Sm. Indira Gandhi and her Congress as a bold step towards establishment of socialism in our country. Although it was our Party alone which viewed this so-called progressive move of the Congress as a measure to hoodwink the masses and designed to fulfil the aggregate interest of Indian capitalism and also cautioned the left parties and forces and the masses of the people not to confuse it as a step towards socialism and progress, such a move of Sm. Gandhi was able to create deep confusion among the people. This attempt of the Congress to project a progressive image of it was no doubt aided by the other opposition parties, even including the left and so-called communist parties like the CPI and the CPI(M). But whatever may be the nature of confusion among the broad section of the people, it is surprising to note that the Prime Minister in her recent speeches and even at the AICC session has made a volte face and has a cheek to say that it is not by way of nationalisation that socialism can be brought about. Government's present policy of liberalising the provisions of Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act and giving free hand to the individual monopolists to extend its dominance over the economic life of the country clearly brings to

the fore the shadow boxing of the Congress against the monopolists which has paid some dividend to it in the recent polls. Sm. Gandhi's own admission very recently that some licenses have been given to the larger houses to help the development of backward areas and current proposals to open up joint ventures with the big industrial houses prove in no way that the Congress Government is moving an inch to restrain the expansion of big monopoly houses. Is it not then outright deception and rejection of its pre-poll pledge to curb the activities of the Indian monopolists? No wonder, Congress, after securing governmental power, can renounce its pledges to the people so soon to best serve its masters, the monopoly capitalists.

Or take the question of radical land reform and fixation of ceilings on rural and urban property. On the question of land ceilings, the so-called warfare between the supposed radicals and the farm lobbyists within the Congress has been subdued and the radicals have been warned by no less a person than the Prime Minister herself to behave properly and not to be too vociferous in their radical utterances. Not only the question of land ceiling has been shelved aside never to be taken up seriously for the benefit of the poor peasants and agricultural labourers, whose cause the Congress wishes all to believe it is carrying forward, but also in her statement at the AICC session, "that the groundwork for implementation of some programmes like ceilings on land was not as strong as it ought to be" and "that in many states the records and other information pertaining to land were not up to date. (*Statesman dated, 3rd June '72*) it stands out clearly that it has considered it fit to drown this issue. Mr. Mohan Kumaramangalam the 'pro-

gressive' Congress Union Minister has come to realise at this late hours that "Let us not delude ourselves into thinking that a land ceiling will solve all agrarian problems".

When these are all the Congress can do and discharge its unique responsibility entrusted to it by the people, one cannot but wonder how it is going to fulfil its pledges then regarding radical transformation in the land relations and upliftment of the living standard of the vast sections of the poor peasantry.

Besides, a peep into the recent furore over the question of land-ceiling will reveal how the Congress is shelving the whole issue, lock, stock and barrel in favour of the rural vested interests. While the Congress manifesto and the recommendations of the Central Land Reforms Committee as reported by Mr. Ali Ahmed to the Lok Sabha on August 4, 1971 states that "the ceiling for a family of five members may be fixed within the range of 10 to 18 acres of perennially irrigated land or irrigated land capable of growing two crops", the same recommendation as reported by Mr. A. P. Shinde, Minister of State for Agriculture, on the same date, in the Rajya Sabha, runs as follows: "The ceiling for a family of five members may be fixed within the range of 10 to 18 acres of perennially irrigated land or **land under assured irrigation from the Government source** capable of growing two crops." While making clarification on the underlying discrepancy in the question of land ceilings the Union Agriculture Minister Mr. Fakruddin Ali Ahmed echoed the report of Mr. A. P. Shinde at the Chief Minister's conference held this year. The dispute, however, remained open and could not be settled in a subsequent Central Cabinet Sub-committee meeting, or in the Central Land Reforms Committee and the issue is

now lying at present with the National Development Council for a final settlement. As a matter of fact, such whittling down of the provisions of the original recommendations of the CLRC constitutes a departure from Congress's poll pledge and signifies no land reform at all since the land irrigated from government sources cannot be more than three percent of the actual cultivable land in our country. Is it not a tell-tale evidence of Congress playing a hypocritical role in matters most vital to the people?

Another issue which the Congress played upon to sail its boat in the election storm is the question of abolition of privy purse. Like nationalisation of 14 major Indian banks its legislation on the abolition of privy purse was another trump card which the Congress untiringly used to stamp it as 'progressive'. How 'progressive' the measure is can best be seen from a recent press report wherein it is stated that the Congress party intends to pay transitional allowance to the ex-rulers varying between four to eight times of the annual privy purses. It would be four times the annual payment for those who received between Rs. 50,000.00 to Rs. one lakh per annum, six times for those receiving between Rs. 15,000.00 to Rs. 50,000.00 and eight times for those who received less than Rs. 15,000.00 annually. The total amount which was spent on payment of privy purses was Rs. 4 crores a year.

The ruling party not only waited so long after the day of declaration of independence to abolish princely privileges, but has provided to pay huge amount of compensation to the princes for the services rendered by them to the Congress in the last poll.

The recent deliberations at the AICC Session hold no promise of a better future neither do these present any concrete approach, plan and

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Govt.'s Bid to Infringe on Autonomy of Universities

A couple of weeks back while addressing the first meeting of the UGC Committee for development and reorganisation of Calcutta University Mr. Siddharta Shankar Roy made certain observations on certain important aspects of the higher education of the state.

At present the academic atmosphere of the state is again very much disturbed. The Higher Secondary and the different University examinations of this year have either just completed or started.

Mass-copying and the adoption of other unfair means are again rampant. Reports of invigilators being subjected to intimidation, threat and even physical assault by a section of the examinees engaged in adopting unfair means in various examination centres have been published in the daily papers. The overall situation with certain minor improvements here and there is as deteriorating as it was in the last year.

Previously we have discussed in detail our viewpoints regarding the root cause and the way to eradicate the evils the examination system vis-a-vis our system of education are at present suffering from. We would like to put our viewpoint again in new future.

Subir Basu Roy

For the present we would like to highlight our discussion on certain observations made by Mr. Roy, the Chief Minister of the State in the said meeting.

Though a couple of weeks have already passed after Mr. Roy's address in the said meeting and the academic atmosphere is at present tense with the troubles and problems arising out of the attempts to conduct examinations fairly and properly but still we think that the comments made by Mr. Roy should not go unchallenged for two reasons. Firstly, we think that in the said comment Mr. Roy, put certain remarks having deeper implications in regard to the interference of the

governmental authorities in the affairs of the University. Apart from this, the fact that the comment was made by no less a person than the Chief Minister of the State himself who as the then Union Education Minister was instrumental in implementing the new act on Viswa Bharati University for taking away its autonomy even in academic sphere has compelled us to put our considered viewpoints before our learned readers.

Mr. Roy in his eloquent (!) speech referred to the tremendous rise in the number of students in Calcutta University and stated that 'some way must be found to check admission in the Universities.' He suggested the implementation of a scheme of work-oriented education. What he viewed with concern was the crowding of the precincts of our Colleges and Universities by third class students who hardly deserved to be there. He expressed the determination of the government to see that Calcutta University keep politics and corruption at bay. He commented that while piloting the bill for the reorganisation of Viswa Bharati he had made this perfectly clear in the parliament.

Now if any one would like to enter into a detail analysis of the comments and observations made by Mr. Roy, then he might be led to conclude that Mr. Roy is simply echoing the voice of the ruling class of our country, who with the same view to safeguard its own interest, is pursuing the policy of curtailment of education, trying to take away the autonomy of the Universities and other educational institutions and imposing absolute governmental control over them.

It is a known fact that

education and educational system is a superstructure of a given economic base. As a superstructure of the given economic base it can not but serve the ruling class in power. For obvious reasons, in the name of reforms in the field of education what the bourgeois politicians are aiming at in our country is nothing but creation of ideological hegemony over the people, establishment of governmental control over the entire education system by usurping the autonomy and freedom so long enjoyed by the educational institutions. Moreover, we strongly feel that faced with mounting crisis of the capitalist economy and accelerated movement of the educated unemployed for getting employment, the ruling class has been trying to curtail the existing scope and opportunities for education and particularly through the introduction of seat restriction scheme, the higher education. In this background Mr. Roy's observation that some way must be found out to check admission in the Universities is quite understandable. In fact he has expressed his willingness to uphold the same policy of curtailment of higher education.

Besides that, in the past we have observed that on the plea of industrialisation of the country, the ruling class has given more and more emphasis on technical education of elementary nature to the utter neglect of higher education in different branches of science and humanities. Particularly designed with an ulterior motive this has limited the scope and opportunity of university education which being the highest stage of educational edifice plays a very dominant role in determining everything involving the entire domain of knowledge and epistemology.

Now the growing crisis of capitalist economy in our country has to a certain

extent forced the ruling class to realise that their implementation of technical-information-biased education has failed to fulfil their desired objectives and hence increasingly they are searching for some other alternative ways and means for arresting the flow of students to higher university education. Mr. Roy's proposal to introduce the scheme of work-oriented education might be an attempt in that direction.

Now apart from this, the more alarming issue which has created a sense of deep concern and apprehension in the academic world is the recent steps taken by the governments to supersede the authorities of different Universities like that of Viswa Bharati and five other Universities in Bihar.

It may be remembered that when Parliamentary democracy was at its early stage, when a comparatively wider democratic environment was existing in the political field the educational institutions used to enjoy more autonomy and the tendency to establish governmental control was not then strongly felt. But the growth and development of monopoly capitalism which eventually eliminated free competition in the economic field has its corresponding effect in curbing the democratic rights, and taking away of the autonomy of educational institutions in the field of education. The Congress Government at the Centre is at present laying the foundation of fascism.

In the economic sphere this is being sought to be done through the adoption of different social-democratic economic measures like planning, bank nationalisation etc., thereby giving birth to state monopoly capitalism through the fusion of state capital with private monopoly capital. In the academic sphere in conformity with the drive for economic centralisation in the economic sphere, this is being done on the one hand by constituting

Queer way to drive out ills in the academic sphere

universities like that of Kalyani, North Bengal, Burdwan etc., which are practically completely controlled by the government, leaving almost no scope for the teachers and the educationists to play any proper role in the functioning of those universities and on the other by taking away autonomy of schools, colleges, universities and other academic institutions solely with the view to weed out left and democratic elements among the staff and members of the different bodies of academic institutions and to impose governmental control over the academic world, for bringing about regimentation of thought and fascization.

Now a few months back, the academic world noticed a drive in this direction in the promulgation of the new act on Viswa Bharati University assigning to the government the right to take over the administration of the said University and completely doing away with its autonomy. For obvious reasons we raised a strong voice of protest against this malicious move and stated that "It is not our point that the state of affairs in the Viswa Bharati University was ideal and that there was nothing left to be desired. Nothing like that. The Viswa Bharati University also like almost all other universities in our country, suffers from serious ills which have naturally caused serious resentment among the informed members of the public. But will the situation improve in any way by just reducing the Viswa Bharati University into an appendage of the Union Education Ministry? Rather our past experience tells us that such curtailment of autonomy of educational institutions and establishment of control of the government over them had created more chaos and more serious and new and newer evils in the academic world. It should be borne in mind that autocratic administration by bureaucracy is no remedy

for the various ills from which our universities, boards of education and other educational institutions are suffering today. The remedy lies in expanding and strengthening their autonomy in the true sense of the term and introducing truly democratic, secular and scientific education and education system in the country."

(P. Era. dated 15.12.71)

The latest sinister drive in the same direction is the supersession of all five universities in Bihar by the State Government by an ordinance resulting in the exit of their Vice-chancellors and freezing of the functions of the different elected university authorities like Senate, Syndicate, Academic Council etc.

It was stated that the situation in these universities reached the point of no return long ago. With each university facing huge financial deficit, caste clashes leading to murders in the campus, inordinate delay in holding examinations, use of unfair means in massive scale in the university examinations and publication of examination results in many cases two year behind scheduled time—all these were causing irreparable damage to the careers of thousands of students. As regards financial crisis some instances were cited. It was stated that the Patna University Library building was mortgaged to a bank. The University was alleged not to have paid the municipal taxes for over ten years and the unpaid electricity bills were said to have run to lakhs of rupees.

The University Enquiry Commission which recommended supersession was said to have devoted entire chapters to the 'wrong acts' of the Vice-chancellors in each University. The Senates of the Universities — 'the supreme governing bodies'—were described in the said report as "fish markets with members

shouting at the Vice-chancellors all sorts of wild charges which they cannot substantiate." It was stated that even exchange of blows were not uncommon in the meetings of the said body.

All these things as reported in the press clearly reveal to what deplorable state these Universities were led to by a section of the so-called educationists of our country who controlled the different bodies of the said institutions. In innumerable occasions we have observed that a section of the so-called educationists and academicians controlling different educational institutions like Schools, Colleges and Universities having little or no ethical and moral scruple do not hesitate to adopt even unfair tactics to protect their influence on the academic world and to safeguard their personal or group interest. Different sorts of cliques, coteries, vested interest, group interests, all these evils are rampant in our institutions throughout the country.

But still then, under no circumstances any attempt to curb the autonomy of the University or any endeavour to supersede the University authorities on the part of the government even if these moves are undertaken on the plea of improving the state of a affair of any university should be supported.

Apart from the fact that this would lead to regimentation of thought and would thereby help to create conditions for fascization in the ideological plane as we have already remarked before, we apprehend that though in certain cases some improvement in administrative affairs might be observed for a temporary period but still then all sorts of evils as mentioned above would persist and in some cases these might be felt even in greater magnitudes. In fact only the persons involved in these nasty affairs would change places. The bureau-

cratic officers of the government administration would then substitute a section of so-called 'educationists' who are at present controlling the different university bodies.

In fact our apprehension is not baseless. The existing state of affairs in certain government-controlled universities like that at Kalyani would provide ample evidence in support of our observation.

For sometime past we have noted that a section of the educationists claiming themselves to be progressive is raising the demand for the 'nationalisation of education' on the pretext of fighting corruption, and for economic reasons too. In a seminar recently held by West Bengal College and University Teacher's Association, in its last conference held at Malda, the same voice was reflected by a section of the left minded educationists. None would disagree with the necessity for fighting against corruption in the academic world. But our previous experiences have shown and we have already stated that governmental control is no remedy for fighting corruption prevailing in the academic institutions. Those who support the demand for nationalisation of the educational institutions for financial reasons forget that in any civilised country, the financial responsibility of education should always lie with the government. The government should bear the full burden of the financial aspects of education vis-a-vis educational institutions. But at the same time it should be clearly understood that this under no circumstances should be treated as a plea for taking over the autonomy of the academic institutions in the name of nationalisation of education. For in a capitalist state like that of ours, the establishment of governmental control over the academic institutions means in other words the

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CPI MUST REFRAIN FROM HOLDING BRIEF FOR CONGRESS

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programme for the eradication of some vital problems, benefitting the broad toiling masses. Such a deplorable act of the ruling party which has bluffed the people has been condemned even by some Congress speakers at the session.

"It (the approach paper to the Fifth Plan presented for discussion at the AICC session) completely avoids laying down a strategy for the building of a new society. It neither says anything about land reforms, nor about limitation of urban property. It does not talk about housing sites for the landless labour and educational facilities both of which were promised in party manifestoes. It does not describe the mechanism and organisation that will implement the plan." (Statesman, dated 3rd June 72) It is a sharp reaction which no doubt rebuts the Congress's claim of making sincere efforts towards social progress and prosperity. But surprisingly, not only a vast section of the intelligentsia but even so-called communist parties, its leaders and rank and file were roped in by the 'progressive' gimmicks of the Congress who lent all their support to glorify Congress in its bid to strike a progressive image of it to the people. The role of the C.P.I. and other supposed radicals is particularly significant which has caused great harm to the democratic interests of the people. When such are the testimonials of the Congress, when the Congress is openly flouting all democratic norms preparing grounds for growing fascistic onslaught on left parties and mass organisations and when the Congress is showing on each passing day its reactionary

character throwing aside all its beautiful but empty pledges erstwhile given to the people, the CPI is still keenly searching for progressiveness within the Congress even while its own party organs are bringing out daily numerous acts of violence and intimidation committed by the ruling party, its youth and student wings on various left mass organisations in order to crush the legitimate democratic mass movements against the vested interests. Will the CPI cadres and the masses led by them still allow their leaders to pursue such suicidal policy of behaving as drum boy of Indira Gandhi and her Congress or will they come forward to hold aloft the banner of united left progressive movement by compelling their leadership to forsake their pro-Congress policies? We hope that their own terrible experience of fascistic Congress attacks on their various mass organisations, not to speak of the vicious attacks of the ruling party now going on other left parties and democratic organisations and the recent AICC session at New Delhi will act as an eye-opener to them.

Kartick Saha left for Budapest

Com. Kartick Saha, one of the Secretaries of Bengal Primary Teachers' Association (B. P. T. A.) has left Calcutta for Budapest, Capital of Hungary, to attend International Teachers' Trade Union meeting from 6th to 8th June '72. Agenda of the said meeting is "Young Teachers Problems and the Part Played by Trade Unions in their solution".

School of Politics at Jajpur, Orissa

A School of Politics was held on 10th, 11th and 12th June last in Jajpur Town Hall in Cuttack district organised under the auspices of the local committee of All India Democratic Students Organisation. About fifty students of Jajpur town and neighbouring localities attended the three-day school.

Among the subject which were discussed in the different sessions of the school were dialectical and historical materialism, the international situation, the national situation and the stage of Indian revolution, the true understanding of proletarian culture and necessity for development of communist ethics and moral values and

above all the great historical role of Com. Shibdas Ghosh, the outstanding Marxist philosopher of the day, and the leader, teacher and General Secretary of the S.U.C.I., the real revolutionary working class party in our country. Com. Probhas Ghosh, the General Secretary of D.S.O. had conducted the school in all the sessions.

Mass Meeting at Digwadih

Digwadih, Dhanbad,
21st May :

A well-attended mass meeting was held to-day at Digwadih organised under the joint auspices of Bihar Coal Miners' Union and Tata Colliery Workers' Union, both affiliated to UTUC (Lenin Sarani) and the local unit of the SUCI. Com. Amar Kumar Pandey the main speaker, emphasised in his speech on the extreme urgency for the formation of a Left United Democratic Front, embracing all the left and democratic parties and forces for repulsing effectively the growing fascistic attacks of the ruling Congress on the hard won democratic rights of the people. Demand for nationalisation of all coal mines was voiced in the meeting by several speakers among whom were Com. Anil Sarkar and Com. Hem Chakravarty, Dhanbad District Secretary of SUCI.

CSIR Employees, Workers Federation Formed

(By a Staff Reporter)

To form a federation of the different trade unions of employees of different national laboratories under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, a meeting of representatives from such laboratories was held at Dhanbad on and from 12th to 14th May last. More than fifty delegates attended that meeting.

The meeting formed the Federation of the C.S.I.R. Employees and Workers' Unions with Sri D. Sharma as President and B. K. Roy as General Secretary.

The meeting also decided to prepare for a sustained movement for the restoration of the democratic rights of the employees since curtailed by the C.S.I.R. authorities.

Slogan to Make Education Free From Politics Caters To the Need of Ruling Class

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establishment of the hegemony of the ruling capitalist class over educational institutions.

So none should have the illusion that the establishment of governmental control over educational institutions is the panacea for all ills the academic world is at present suffering from. On the contrary, we hold the opinion as we have just stated that in the newer situation, the bureaucratic machinery of the government, being one of the permanent structural parts of the state machinery, as the new controlling authority would better serve the capitalist state. It would then be easier for the ruling capitalist class of our country to establish its ideological hegemony over the academic world for which it is striving for sometime past.

So it is one thing to demand that the government should bear entire financial responsibility of education and it is completely a different thing to urge for nationalisation of education. Lastly we would like to draw the attention of our readers to the speech delivered by Mr. Roy, wherein he expressed the determination of his Government to keep the Calcutta University free from the influence of corruption and politics.

Regarding corruption we would like to state that the eradication of the different sorts of evils like cliques, cotteries, vested interest etc. which are rampant in the different academic institutions in our country, is beyond the capacities of any government, representing the interest of the ruling class. Rather we feel that it is the ruling capitalist class who is mostly responsible for the creation of these evils in our country.

In regard to Mr. Roy's determination to keep the Calcutta University free from the influence of politics we would like to mention that

we do not understand what he meant by politics. He too did not clearly spell it out. If by politics is meant in the narrow sense the safeguarding of the narrow sectarian petty interest of any political party or group in the academic field, then we too are strongly against it.

But when viewed in a broader perspective, it would become obvious that no walks of social life could be made free from the influence of the political life of the society.

In a class-divided society like that of ours, like all other superstructures of the given economic base, the education systems too can not remain free from being governed by class attitude and interest. The ruling class always introduces such a system of education as helps to maintain, consolidate and further strengthen its hegemony over the society. The progressive and democratic people for obvious reasons fight against this attitude and try to bring in educational reforms with a view to democratise the entire educational system to conform with the democratic principles of life.

Obviously, like all other fields of social life, in the academic field also the ideological struggle between the different class attitudes would take place. In this sense education cannot remain free from the influence of politics of the society. The slogan to make education free from the influence of politics is rather a hoax. By this slogan, the ruling class on the one hand tries to confuse the people and on the other hand with a view to safeguarding its own political interest in education tries to weed out progressive democratic elements from the different academic bodies, curb the autonomy of the institutions, suppress the democratic structures of the

different academic bodies and vest autocratic power in the hands of a few chosen persons. In this regard the latest Act on Aligarh Muslim University may be cited as an example before our readers. In a comment recently made by the V.C. of the said University, it has been stated that the new Act would minimise the political influence. Let us see how this minimisation has been effected. It has been stated that too much power has been vested in the V.C. The supreme body for administration—the Executive Council, according to the new Act will have 21 members, eleven of whom will be nominated by the V.C. In other words the V.C. along with his nominated members will enjoy absolute majority in the supreme governing body. Thus, through the implementation of the new Act on Aligarh Muslim University the so-called champions of democracy in our country in the name of minimising the political influence have throttled the democratic functioning of the university administration and are going to establish an autocratic rule in the said university through the V.C. and its nominees.

Now a pertinent question might be raised—in what way the educational institutions can be made free from the maladies like corruption and other evils that they are at present suffering from? We think that like political, cultural and economic crises, the society is at present suffering from, the crisis in the academic field too, can not be completely resolved within the existing socio-political economic structure of the society. The real advancement of learning, the complete eradication of all evils prevailing in the education system in general and in academic institutions in particular can take place only under socialism. But this does not mean that till socialism is established we

should remain idle.

We are quite confident that the situation to a great extent can be improved only through greater democratisation of the controlling authorities of the academic institution, participation of teachers, progressive and democratic elements interested in education in greater numbers, participation of students, non-teaching staff, in the different controlling bodies of the educational institutions and thereby extending and strengthening the autonomy of the universities and other academic institutions and introducing a truly democratic, secular and scientific education system. Serious efforts should be made to bring in reforms in the education system to achieve these objectives. To quote our beloved leader and teacher, Com Shibdas ghosh, "The democratic forces of our country should resolutely fight for bringing in educational reforms not only to make education cheap, universal and secular in the truest sense of the term but also to democratise the entire education system to conform with the democratic principle of life. Therefore, the aim of any reform in our education system should be to strengthen the democratic struggle of the masses for completing the unaccomplished tasks of bourgeois democratic or national democratic revolution, mainly the social and cultural revolution, which is long overdue in our country."

So we would like to conclude that any serious attempt to bring in educational reforms covering all aspects of our education system should be backed by a mighty cultural movement launched by the left and democratic forces including teachers' and students' organisations and persons interested in education to uplift the ethical and moral values among the people in general and the students and youths in particular.

SUC Organised Massive Protest Rally for Drought Relief

(By a Staff Reporter)

Calcutta citizens witnessed with keen interest the first of its kind since the last election, the biggest anti-Government demonstration of the common people on 10th June last. It was organised by the West Bengal State Committee of the S U C I.

Thousands of peasants coming from distant districts like Purulia, Birbhum, Murshidabad, Bankura, Midnapore, Burdwan, and also from South 24 Parganas assembled at Raja Subodh Mullick Square wherefrom the demonstration started. It was really a spectacular scene of tens of thousands of peasants, workers, students and youths parading the Calcutta streets, in scorching sun with banners, festoons, and red flags in their hands and shouting slogans for the preservation of democratic rights, stopping of forcible eviction of peasants from land and above all, for adopting concrete measures to check the menace of drought in the State of West Bengal. Mention must be made of the participation of "Komsomol"—the young communist wing of the SUCI. This demonstration was led by different state leaders of SUCI including Com. Nihar Mukherjee and Com. Subodh Banerjee.

The demonstration was stopped at Esplanade East by the Police wherefrom Com. Nihar Mukherjee, Com. Subodh Banerjee and Com. Pratiba Mukherjee went in a deputation to submit a memorandum which was received by the Governor's Secretary in absence of the Governor. The memorandum contained seven point demands as short term measures to mitigate the sufferings of the drought-affected people and also certain long term measures for permanent solution of the problem. These short-term measures were as follows :

1. The drought-affected areas should be declared as such immediately and the

problem treated on a war-footing.

2. Every Anchal must be provided with at least 10 T.R. Schemes, and the restrictions on the number of workers for each Scheme recently imposed should be lifted without, of course, relaxing necessary measures to prevent corruption in test-relief work.

3. All disabled persons and persons who cannot be absorbed in T. R. work must be given G. R. The existing limitations on G. R. should be withdrawn. Liberal grant of agricultural loan, cattle purchase loan, seed loan and supply of seeds and fertilizer should be made.

4. Moratorium on loan and taxes should be imposed and poor and middle peasants of drought-affected areas should be exempted from payment of land revenues. Students of drought-affected areas should be exempted from payment of tuition and other fees.

5. At least 20 new wells or tubewells should be constructed in each Anchal. Pending such constructions, supply of drinking water to villagers in drought-affected areas should be ensured through trucks carrying drinking water. Purulia, so long considered non-tubewell area, is actually not so. Tubewells had already been sunk there when evacuees from Bangladesh were recently kept there in camps. So, in place of wells, tubewells should be sunk in Purulia also.

6. If possible, gruel kitchens and cheap canteens for supply of dry food should be opened in large number in drought-affected areas.

7. Relief work, should immediately be freed from

petty politics of the ruling party.

The memorandum also contained certain concrete instances of assaults, intimidation and murders of S.U.C. workers by the Congress hoodlums and demanded immediate stopping of such fascistic acts. The memorandum demanded that administrative neutrality at all levels upto the lowest thana level must be restored. Political murders should be sternly dealt with, democratic atmosphere must be brought back so that the democratic opposition parties can carry on normal political activities freely.

After the deputation the whole mass gathered at Saheed Minar in a meeting which was presided over by Com. Ashutosh Banerjee, Secretary, Calcutta District Committee, S U C I. Com. Nihar Mukherjee in his

speech stressed, among others, on the necessity of building up a united movement and described this mass deputation as a first step in that direction. Com. Mukherjee also pointed out that the ruling Congress has adopted such heinous tactics that it has even enraged its closest partner the CPI, which has recently come out openly to raise its voice of protest against such policy.

Com. Subodh Banerjee strongly criticised the role of newspapers controlled by the big business which are showing scant regard for journalism worth its name and are nakedly trumpeting the voice of the ruling party just to hoodwink the common people. Com. Pratiba Mukherjee, Yakub Pailan, Achintya Sinha, and Fatick Ghosh also spoke in the meeting.

SUC Office Ransacked at DumDum

Com. Tapan Roychowdhury on behalf of DumDum Local Committee of the S.U.C.I. has issued the following statement to the Press :

"On 8th June last, in the evening at about 7-30 P.M., a group of Congressite anti-socials, armed with lethal weapons, attacked the offices of DumDum Local Committee of the S.U.C.I. and the Worker's Union office. They forcibly drove away the Party and Union workers who were present in the offices. They ransacked the office and took away all valuable documents, books, almirah, wall clock, fans, signboards, and other valuable things.

"These anti-socials had previously twice ransacked the office and threatened the Party workers. On 7th June last, they had pressurised one worker belonging to Hindustan Iron and Steel Company Workers' Union which is

led by the S.U.C.I., to leave the S.U.C. Union and on refusal of the said worker to do so they had beaten him, resulting to severe injury with the help of chain, rod and other deadly weapons.

"So we think that while the Congress is paying lip-service to 'democracy' and 'socialism', it is determined to crush the left and democratic mass movements and destroy the democratic atmosphere altogether.

"Under the circumstances, we, on behalf of DumDum Local Committee of the SUCI urge upon all the democratic-minded people of DumDum, and at that of West Bengal to raise their voice of protest against this ghastly incident of Congress hoodliganism".

Komsomol's Historic Rally

Against US Aggression in Vietnam

(By a Staff Reporter)

Calcutta, 2nd June - Today a historic protest rally in front of the office of the United States Information Service was held under the auspices of 'Komsomol', an organisation of the young communists who are guided by the glorious teachings of Com. Shibdas Ghosh, the leader and teacher of the SUCI.

Hundreds of young communists who took part in the demonstration rent the sky with slogans demanding immediate halt of US bombing and its atrocities in Vietnam, and withdrawal of all US troops and war materials from the land of Vietnam with immediate effect.

Such a protest rally solely of the youngsters can be said to have created, without fear of any contradiction a new precedence in the history of protest march in Calcutta, famous as a 'city of processions'. This rally organised by Komsomol, which has merged the voice of protest of the young communists here against continual barbaric attacks of US imperialism in Vietnam with the rising tide of world-wide protest movement against US aggression will undoubtedly provide a new fillip to the anti-imperialist movement of the common toiling masses of our country.

Before the procession started, hundreds of young boys and girls assembled at Subodh Mullick Square, Calcutta. At a meeting held here which was presided over by Com. Leena Mukherjee, a leading organiser of Komsomol, Com. Mithu Basu and Com. Rama Mukherjee, the other organisers of it, delivered speeches wherein they expressed their unequivocal support to the Vietnam liberation fighters.

They also said that the long protracted struggle of the Vietnam freedom fighters which was initiated against French and Japanese imperialism was still continuing against US imperialism, the

most ferocious enemy of all mankind. But despite the most brazen attack of US gangsters who have deployed their most modern and devastating weapons, the freedom struggle of the patriotic fighters of Vietnam is scoring ever greater victories on each succeeding day. Vietnam will ever remain in the memory of all oppressed people for its great significance in the history of anti-imperialist freedom struggle.

After the meeting concluded, a large colourful procession was led by Com. Leena Mukherjee, Com. Mithu (Sourabh) Bose, Com. Rama Mukherjee and Com. Sikha Mukherjee. With Komsomol banners, festoons,

potrait of the great Vietnam leader Com. Ho-Chi-Minh, posters drawn by the young Komsomol artists depicting some instances of US barbarism, and also with the effigies of 7th fleet, and the US President, Mr. Nixon, the procession, chanting anti-US slogans, marched along Lenin Sarani and Chowringhee Road and ended in front of the USIS office. After a brief street meeting there, the effigies were burnt before a big crowd which gathered there to greet the young communists and express their solidarity with the cause of the Vietnamese people. The Komsomol processionists ended their day's programme after assembling at the foot of Sahid Minar.



Komsomol's Procession

Congressite Goondas

Assault on Com. Goswami

(By a Staff Reporter)

Burdwan, 8th June.

Com. B. P. Goswami, a well-known organiser of SUCI has suffered today severe injuries due to assault on him by Congressite goondas.

It is informed that about fifty Congressite anti-socials violently attacked Com. Goswami with iron rods and other lethal weapons near

Sarpi under Faridpur Police Station and severely struck him at his head with the iron rods. Com. Goswami fell unconscious,

lying in a pool of blood at the very place of incident. After preliminary treatment at the local Health Centre, Com. Goswami was removed to Asansol hospital in a precarious condition.

It has been further informed that the local police despite being intimated about this incident has as yet taken no effective step in this regard. More, Com. Goswami has been arrested involving him in false cases.

This incident has created a great stir in the locality.